

In the Claims:

Claims 15, 17, 25 and 26 are amended herein. Claims 16 and 18 are canceled. The remaining claims are not amended.

1-14 (canceled)

15. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure, characterized in that a solution having a polymer dissolved in a hydrophobic organic solvent is cast on a substrate, said organic solvent is evaporated in a moist atmosphere of relative humidity of 50% or higher to condense moisture contained in an atmosphere prevailing on a surface of said cast solution into micro-droplets, said micro-droplets are dispersed on the surface of said cast solution or in said cast solution into a ~~close-packed~~ packed structure, said micro-droplets, condensed and dispersed on the surface of said cast solution or in said cast solution, are evaporated to obtain a porous honeycomb structure with said droplets used as casts, and said porous honeycomb structure is at least bisected by peeling in a thickness direction, thereby obtaining honeycomb structures wherein micro-pillars are regularly formed and arranged by said bisection on peeled sections, characterized in that said polymer is composed of a hydrophobic or biodegradable polymer and an amphipathic polymer and, optionally, a modifier is incorporated therein,

and said hydrophobic or biodegradable polymer comprises a polymer having a poly(meth)acrylate, or a polystyrene as a basic skeleton.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 16, wherein said polymer comprises 50 to 99% of said hydrophobic polymer ~~and/or~~ or said biodegradable polymer with the rest being said amphiphilic polymer.

18. (canceled)

19. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15, wherein said moist atmosphere is adjusted to a relative humidity of 50 to 95%.

20. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15 or 19, characterized in that said atmosphere is an ordinary air atmosphere.

21. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15, characterized in that operation for evaporation of said organic solvent in said moist atmosphere is carried out by blowing an atmosphere having a high humidity onto an evaporation interface of said organic solvent.

22. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15, characterized in that peeling operation is carried out by use of an adhesive tape.

23. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15, characterized in that peeling operation is carried out by dissolution of the polymer.

24. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 15, characterized in that peeling operation is carried out by ultrasonic irradiation.

25. (currently amended) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to any one of claims 15 to [[24]] 17, 19 and 21-24, characterized in that said micro-pillars are arranged at a length of 0.1 to 50  $\mu\text{m}$ , a tip length of 0.01 to 20  $\mu\text{m}$  and a spacing of 0.1 to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ .

26. (currently amended) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to any one of claims 15 to [[25]] 17, 19 and 21-24 above, wherein said micro-pillars are oriented in any direction except for a vertical direction and set with anisotropy.

27. (original) A process for preparing a micro-pillar structure according to claim 26, characterized in that said anisotropic micro-pillars are obtained by a peeling treatment

with transverse shearing stress in such a way that when the porous honeycomb structure that is a micro-pillar precursor is sectioned by peeling in the thickness direction, the resulting micro-pillars are oriented in any direction except for the vertical direction.